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MINE Update

MINING INDUSTRY NEWS E-COMM UPDATE

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Brought to you by the National Mining Association

This Week in the News

Discussions about resurrecting an energy and climate initiative continued in the Senate as confirmation of Supreme Court Justice nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson, the Russian war in Ukraine and rising inflation dominated the headlines. The National Mining Association (NMA) remains focused on actively engaging to advance mining's interests at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue. Plus, we have updates on how the mining and energy markets are faring.

Safety Share

Spring Break is right around the corner. Here are [35 safety tips](#) for college students, families and solo travelers.

EPA and U.S. Army Corps Defend Budget and Policy on the Hill



Wednesday morning, both Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Michael Regan and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Michael Connor testified on the President's 2023 Budget proposal before Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) and the Senate Appropriations Committee, respectively. The heads of both agencies took questions on the specifics of the budgets proposed for each agency but spent the majority of hearing fielding criticisms from members on the administration's policies and priorities for each agency. Senators raised questions on "waters of the U.S." (WOTUS), jurisdictional waters determinations, coal ash/coal combustion residuals and Interstate Transport Rule for ozone. Senators challenged Administrator Regan on EPA's targeting of the coal powered energy sector through his consistent comments about EPA's "suite of regulations." The NMA will provide a summary of the EPA the hearing, but in the

meantime, information on the hearings, including links to testimony and video of the hearing, are found [here](#) for EPW and [here](#) for Appropriations.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Hearing on Minerals Demand and Recycling

On Thursday, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will hold a hearing to discuss the scope and scale of critical mineral demand and recycling of critical minerals. Please find a link to the hearing and witness testimony [here](#). In addition, the NMA submitted written [testimony](#) to the committee, focusing on anticipated mineral demand and the need for improved permitting processes, land access, mineral processing, and the importance of all minerals to U.S. economic and national security, not just those deemed to be critical. Witnesses include Dave Howell (Acting Director and Principal Deputy Director Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains Director, Vehicle Technologies Office), JB Straubel (Founder and CEO of Redwood Materials), Dr. Duncan Wood (Vice President of Strategy & New Initiatives at the Wilson Center), Scott Forney (President of General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems), and Joe Britton (Executive Director of the Zero Emissions Transportation Association). The NMA has worked with bipartisan committee staff to support the development of the hearing and provided witness recommendations, additional background information, and content feedback to committee and congressional staff. The NMA will provide a summary of the hearing later this week.

Bicameral Activity on Uranium

On March 31, Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee Ranking Member John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) introduced the National Opportunity to Restore Uranium Supply Services In America (NO RUSSIA) Act of 2022 ([S. 3978](#)), authorizing the Department of Energy (DOE) to establish a national strategic uranium reserve while increasing domestic

uranium production, conversion and enrichment activities. The bill will also help to eliminate the importation of Russian uranium, support domestic nuclear fuel supply chains, and ensure domestic nuclear reactors have the necessary fuel to continue operating. The bill is being cosponsored by Senators Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.), Roger Marshall (R-Kan.), and Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.). Please find a link to Ranking Member Barrasso's press release [here](#).

Yesterday, Rep. Bob Latta (R-Ohio) introduced nearly identical legislation under the same name in the House of Representatives. Please find a link to Rep. Latta's press release [here](#).

On April 1, Rep. Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.) and House Western Caucus Chairman Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.) [urged](#) DOE Secretary Jennifer Granholm to begin purchasing domestic uranium for the domestic uranium reserve. Expressing increased concern over DOE's delay in acting to support the domestic uranium mining and conversion industries, the letter highlights our nation's untenable reliance on Russia and Russia-allied nations for nearly half of the uranium used in the U.S. commercial reactor fleet. It also notes that it has been 15 months since Congress gave the DOE \$75 million to establish a reserve and begin purchasing domestic uranium for the reserve. Citing national, energy, and economic security concerns, the letter also reminds the DOE that Russia is known for weaponizing its energy resources for geopolitical leverage and that "our weakened nuclear fuel supply chain is highly vulnerable to disruption from Russia, and we should be taking all steps to eliminate our reliance on them as a global partner in light of the unjustified war they are currently waging." Reps. Cheney and Newhouse were joined by Reps. Markwayne Mullin (R-Okla.), Adam Kinzinger (R-Ill.), Richard Hudson (R-N.C.), Russ Fulcher (R-Idaho), and Michael Burgess (R-Texas). The NMA will continue to work with congressional allies to advocate in support of full funding for a domestic uranium reserve and a ban on imports of uranium from Russia.

NMA Participates in Good Samaritan Webinar with Bipartisan Bill Sponsors



Today, the NMA's Ryan Jackson participated in a [webinar](#) entitled, "Removing Barriers to Cleaning Up Abandoned Mines." Discussion focused on the recently introduced *Good Samaritan Remediation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act of 2022* ([S. 3571](#)) and industry, government, and stakeholder perspectives on how to support the clean up of abandoned hardrock mines. In addition to Jackson, the webinar panel featured Ayla Neumeyer with Senator Jim Risch (R-Idaho), Maya Hermann with Senator Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), and Chris Wood, President and CEO of Trout Unlimited. The stakeholder panel was followed by individual comments from Senators [Heinrich](#) and [Risch](#), lead sponsors of S. 3571, which is the first bipartisan Good Samaritan bill introduced since 2009. The NMA is committed to advancing the legislation in the Senate and introducing a companion bill in the House of Representatives. Additionally this week, Tawny Bridgeford, the NMA's Deputy General Counsel, is presenting on Good Samaritan legislation before the Mining and Metallurgical Society of America in Phoenix, Arizona. You may find a copy of her presentation to [MMSA here](#).

Western Caucus Foundation Hosts Roundtable Briefing on 30x30



On March 30, Senator Steve Daines (R-Mont.) and Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.) – Chairmen of the Western Caucus in their respective chambers – held a [briefing](#) to discuss the Biden administration’s [30x30 initiative](#) and promote the caucus’ conservation principles [document](#), which was put together with input from the NMA and other stakeholders. In his opening remarks, Sen. Daines identified the NMA and the Nature Conservancy’s support for the caucus’ principles as an example of why the administration should reverse course on their current plan and support the Western Caucus document.

Jonathan Shuffield (National Association of Counties), Kaitlynn Glover (Public Lands Council), and Heath Heikkila (American Forest Resource Council) provided stakeholder perspectives while Rep. Chris Stewart (R-Utah) offered additional comments in support of multiple use and conservation principles that industry and other stakeholders already adhere to. He also discussed the abundance of federal land that is currently off limits to development in the Western U.S. and the disproportionate burden these states in the West share in attempting to accomplish the administration’s aspirational goals. The NMA provided our 30x30 comments to Rep. Stewart’s staff ahead of the briefing to share additional perspectives from the mining industry about the initiative. The NMA will continue to work with our allies in congress to push back on the administration’s plan and conduct thorough oversight.

NMA Hosts Congressman Bill Johnson



This week the NMA hosted Congressman Bill Johnson (R-Ohio) at the NMA's offices. The congressman is a key member of the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee and a senior member of the Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee and Energy Subcommittee. He's a consistent ally for the mining industry and will only gain more seniority and new leadership roles next Congress. The congressman was able to update NMA member companies on priorities in the U.S. House, the upcoming elections in Ohio and nationwide, and outlook for priorities in this next Congress and important oversight work on a variety of proposed regulations affecting the mining industry. NMA member companies Peabody, Alliance, Arch, Vistra, and Eagle Forge also attended the meeting and joined the NMA's political action committees in supporting the congressman's re-election campaign as well.

EPA Reconsideration of the Ozone NAAQS Moving Forward

The EPA [announced](#) two public meetings of the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) Ozone Panel. On Apr. 29, 2022, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Eastern), CASAC will receive a briefing from EPA on the draft Policy Assessment that will support the agency's reconsideration of the 2020 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

Notably, EPA does not mention an update to the prior Integrated Science Assessment, suggesting that the agency has decided to proceed differently in this NAAQS reconsideration as compared to the 2020 Particulate Matter NAAQS reconsideration that involves a supplement to the previous Integrated Science Assessment. Starting on June 8, 2022, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., CASAC will peer review the agency’s draft Policy Assessment. CASAC will meet two more times on June 13 and 17, 2022. All meetings will be conducted virtually. Additional meeting details will be available [here](#).

NMA Hosts Discussion with Department of Energy Office on Domestic Mineral and Coal Mining Priorities



Today, the NMA hosted a call with officials at the DOE to discuss the agency’s efforts to secure the minerals supply chain and boost the production of domestic sources of these minerals. DOE offices involved were Fossil Energy and Carbon Management, the Geothermal Office, Minerals Sustainability, International Affairs, DOE’s Manufacturing Office, and officials from DOE’s Undersecretaries for Science and Infrastructure implementing DOE existing programs and new opportunities from the Infrastructure

Investment and Jobs Act. The NMA shared industry priorities including mine permitting efficiency and identified mutual areas for private-public efforts, including demonstration and commercialization activities for coal-to-products, secondary recovery and domestic processing, and how the NMA can support DOE's work to develop a critical materials list, as required by the Energy Act of 2020.

Register Now for the NMA's Spring Board Meeting



The NMA's Spring Board of Directors Meeting will be held May 2-4, 2022, at The Ritz Carlton, Sarasota, Fla. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in person again.

As we continue to operate under the new normal, we recognize that many people are still being very cautious with exposure. The NMA will continue to follow certain COVID protocols in order to create a safe environment for our members. In addition to following all CDC guidelines and locally mandated safety protocols (currently, masks are optional), we also require proof of vaccination. You may bring your vaccination card to registration (a picture of the card will work as well), or you may utilize the digital vaccine card on the CLEAR app.

To register for the board meeting, as well as optional activities including a golf outing and a guest program, please [click here](#).

Hotel rooms in the NMA block are on a first come, first serve basis. The group rate (\$309 /night) will be available until April 8th, 2022, or until the block is full. [Click here to reserve a room](#) at the Ritz Carlton. You can also call the reservations department at 877-557-3089 and mention the National Mining Association.

Should you have any questions regarding the meeting, please contact Katie Coon at 202-463-2632. See you in sunny Florida!

Access the NMA's New MAST Tool

The NMA's Mining Action Strategy Team (MAST) tool was conceived as an internal tool to ensure a multi-discipline team (legal and regulatory/government affairs/ communications) approach to development of strategies on high priority regulatory issues. As we began populating the MAST tracker, we realized it would be a useful construct for association members to access a snapshot of our regulatory efforts. The NMA will update the status of each issue weekly to the extent new actions have occurred. Password: NMAAST

[MINING ADVOCACY STRATEGY TEAM](#)

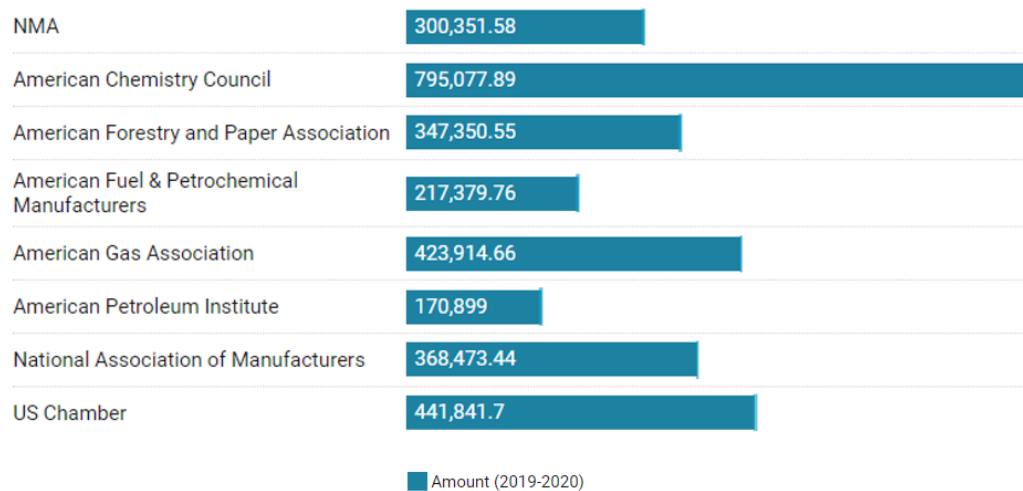
MINEPAC & COALPAC: How We Stack Up

It's an election year, and everyone from allied organizations to the opposition are raising funds to support members of Congress who are advocates for their industry.

Last election cycle, NMA's PACs raised over \$3000,000. The combined impact from NMA's PACs and our member companies' support for the 2020 election was nearly

\$700,000.

NMA PAC receipts compared to other key industry associations in the 2020 election cycle:



The 2022 election cycle will be highly competitive, and our goal is to have just as much of an impact supporting the election of influential members of Congress who advocate for the mining industry's priorities.

For even more information on the NMA's PACs please contact Ryan Jackson at rjackson@nma.org or MK Kirlin at mkirlin@nma.org. In the meantime, see our [FAQs](#) to learn more.

NMA and Third Party Voices

Rich Nolan has been actively engaging with a wide range of media around the announcement that the White House issued a directive for the use of the Defense Production Act to boost battery mineral production and processing. Outlets including [The Wall Street Journal](#), the [Washington Post](#), [Politico Pro](#), [Reuters](#), [Mining Technology](#), [Daily Caller](#), [Shore News Network](#), [E&E Energywire](#), [E&E Daily](#), [Bloomberg Quint](#),

[Utility Dive](#), [Forbes](#), [Mining.com](#), among other outlets all prominently feature Nolan in their coverage. Nolan also did a live interview on the issue with [Yahoo Finance](#) and discussed the rising demand for minerals.

The NMA is mentioned in [additional DPA](#) coverage from [E&E Greenwire](#) and [E&E News PM](#).

Rich Nolan is quoted by [Mining Weekly](#) calling for the passage of the US-Chile tax treaty, which had been pending ratification for more than a decade.

From our third parties, [Duluth News Tribune](#) (Minn.) and [Waco Tribune Herald](#) (Texas) carry an op-ed by Gen. John Adams, U.S. Army brigadier general (retired), president of Guardian Six Consulting and a former deputy U.S. military representative to NATO's Military Committee, in which he argues employing the Defense Production Act can help cut red tape, de-risk investment in mining, and spur production at the speed and scale we need.

[State College Centre Daily Times](#) (Pa.) carries an op-ed by Forrest Remick, emeritus professor of nuclear engineering and emeritus associate vice president for research at Penn State, in which he argues in the effort to ban the import of Russian uranium we need to drop the taboo against mining in the United States and accept the idea that domestic mining will be critically important to our welfare.

Mining and Energy News

A [Wall Street Journal](#) editorial argues that President Biden on Thursday invoked the Defense Production Act to subsidize the mining of certain minerals in the U.S. that his own administration is using regulation to block.

[Associated Press](#) reported the race is on to produce more lithium in the United States.

[Greenwire](#) reported that the London Metal Exchange said Russian mining companies can

no longer house copper, lead, aluminum and aluminum alloy stocks in its U.K. warehouses.

[S&P Global](#) released a series of infographics on the Russian and Ukrainian mining sectors.

The New York Times reported that Russia's aggression is prompting calls to [rethink U.S. uranium imports from Russia](#) needed to power American nuclear plants. E&E published: "[Lawmakers eye uranium reserve](#) funding to wean U.S. off Russia." And [the Verge](#) published: "The U.S. can't seem to quit Russian uranium."

[Argus Media](#) reported that coal-fueled power increased 7.4 percent from the prior year in January amid colder weather, but it lagged gains in natural gas and some renewable power.

[Trains](#) reported that U.S. railroads are hauling more coal this year, and coal analysts say international demand is likely to strengthen U.S. coal exports in part due to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

[Bloomberg](#) reported that early signs are emerging that the amount of financing going to coal-related projects is running at a rate that's more than double last year's pace.

[Argus](#) reported that West Virginia governor Jim Justice (R) has signed a handful of bills into law aimed at securing coal mine reclamation in the state.

[Argus](#) reported that Hampton Roads, Virginia, coal exports increased from all three terminals in February to the highest level in three years, reflecting strong demand amid tight international supply.

[Bluefield Daily Telegraph](#) reported on a possible new use for coal, with the U.S. DOE providing \$3 million for a Bluefield, WV-based project to test coal-derived building materials, including roof tiles, siding panels, bricks and blocks.

[Bloomberg](#) published: "[U.S. coal prices top \\$100 a ton](#) for first time since 2008."

Reuters published: “Germans [warm up to coal](#), wood amid high gas prices.”

China ordered power companies to immediately purchase enough coal to [guarantee stockpiles](#) of at least 15 days supply.



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